

MAYOR ANGERS LIQUOR MEN

**WON'T MEET THEM UNTIL THEY
PROVE THEY'RE NOT BRIBERS.**

—Do You Raise a \$5,000,000 Corruption Fund Every Year? The Mayor Asks—Clear That Up and I'll Tell You

—They Send Him Back a Letter Telling Him He's Neither Fair Nor Compromising

Mayor Low refused yesterday to see a committee representing 8,000 liquor dealers who wanted to know whether or not the Mayor is opposed to the bill to raise the liquor tax from \$600 to \$1,200 a year maximum. The Mayor not only refused to see them, but informed them that he had already notified them by letter that he would not see them until they should convince him that they were innocent of raising each year a \$3,000,000 blackmarket fund. This is the letter:

George F. Gwinder, Ex. Chairman, 4087 Third avenue, New York:

DEAR SIR: I have your note of yesterday asking for an appointment to confer with

There have been persistent rumors, for many days since, that the local Liquor Dealers

Association, through its subordinate groups or sections—said to be sixty-five in number—has been in the habit of assessing the proprietor of every saloon \$5 per week (or \$3 per Sunday), thus creating a fund, from the upward of 12,000 saloons in the city of New York, which amounts to more than \$3,000,000 per annum.

Without asserting the correctness of such rumors, I still think that it is incumbent upon you, as the representative of this interest, and as a preliminary to any discussion of this subject on my part, to submit to me proof that these rumors as to the collection of such assessments are without foundation or, if they are true, to state specifically for what purpose this great sum is used. ALWAYS

ing your reply. I am, gentlemen, yours very truly,
SETH LOW, Mayor.

NEW YORK, March 18.

The first the liquor men heard of this letter was when Billy Moran, the Mayor's assistant secretary, waved it at them in the vestibule of the Mayor's office.

around the corridor in a rage and some of them weren't too particular about not kicking over union pots full of union paint.

Billy Moran did his best to pacify them and finally got rid of them when one of their own number suggested that they all go to District Attorney Jerome and

When they reached the City Hall steps the saloon men, in a group, had their picture taken in a fighting-mad state. The picture will be distributed in all saloons with a copy of Mayor Low's "\$3,000,000 fund letter" in the next campaign if the Mayor

An hour later when the delegates left District Attorney Jerome's office the same photographer took another group photograph and the two groups made one of those "before-and-after" contrasts.

the Wine, Liquor and Beer Dealers' Central Association at the meeting in Fraunce's Tavern. George Gminder was chairman and Fritz Lindinger, the president of the central association, was second man of the committee. There were about twenty five others.

Gminder wrote to the mayor on Wednesday saying that the committee would call on him on Thursday morning at 11 o'clock to ask him for his views on the liquor tax. Then Chairman Gminder hurried off to Albany to fight the bill at a committee hearing, and he didn't get back until yesterday morning, so he didn't receive the reply.

Gminder didn't go to his saloon at all but hurried down to the rendezvous at Fritz Lindinger's place in Nassau street. From there the liquor dealers marched in

Moran intercepted them at the threshold, waving the letter. The committee would have brushed by the secretary but he barred the way and exclaimed: "Gentlemen, the Mayor will not see you."

They said they hadn't and they demanded to know why they couldn't see their Mayor. Moran handed them a copy of the letter and Gminder read it aloud in the corridor to his astonished associates.

"Did the Mayor really write it or is it a joke?" one of the dealers asked Morgan, who admitted that the Mayor was the author.

"He refused to ride with the parade on Tuesday and calls us blackmailers."

"You can tell the Mayor," exclaimed the irate landowner, "that he'll get no answer to that insult. If he was afraid to say 'yes' or 'no' on the license question he's got himself into a worse hole by this charge. And tell him that if he thinks we're

Then Landinger turned away from Moros to the crowd that had gathered in the corridor and continued his speech.

"It's a lie," added another member of the commission, "and everyone at court's a liar who says that the Mayor got his kick out of the money."

The Atlanta Attorney said the Negroes

He even suggested what they should wear and the instructions given to the Italy Mail last night the following night:

Dear Mr. Lee, Mayor of the City of New York
I have a letter to authorize you to go to the
examination that you must have tomorrow
and only one more to go to the examination
and only one more to go to the examination